Pollution at Talcher by the Thermal power station and the Hindustan Fertilizers Plant

*266. SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of villages affected by the environmental pollution around the Thermal power station and Hindustan Fertilizers Plant at Talcher in Orissa;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to check the pollution there; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) About 40 Square Kilometers in the Talcher-Angul area is affected by air and water pollution caused by industries including aluminium smelters, coal mines, power plants and a fertiliser unit. The Orissa Government has also identified around 79 villages in the area which have been affected by water pollution.

(b) and (c) The Government have included the Talcher-Angul area in the Special Action Plan for assessment of the pollution load in order to take concerted measures for its prevention and control. The State Pollution Control Board has conducted a survey of the status of pollution in the area. The following steps have been taken to control pollution in the area:

— Emission and effluent standards for have been prescribed. The units have been directed to instal necessary pollution control equipment within a time frame.

— Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting of industries.

— Ambient air and water quality standards have been evolved and ambient air quality monitoring stations have been set up in the area.

— Notification as an air pollution control area.

— Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment.

— Legal action is taken against the defaulting units under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Involvement of M.Ps. at different levels of Development

@268. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has given any thought as to how the Members of Parliament are to be involved in developmental activities at different levels in village Panchayat| Mandal Panchayat|Zila-Parishad, as per Government views expressed in Parliament on the 18th May, 1990 on this issue; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN): (a) and (b) Since 18th May, 1990 when the Government stated their views on the question of allocating plan funds on the basis of Parliamentary Constituency, a Conference of Chief Ministers of all the States was convened in Delhi on 11th and 12th June 1990 and issues connected with revitalisation of panchayati raj institutions were discussed in great detail. Based on common points of agreement, which emerged from that Conference, a Constitution Amendment Bill seeking to confer constitutional status on the panchayati raj institutions with,

@Previously starred Question 108 transferred from the 16th August, 1990.